



# Office of Emergency Services

# New Release

West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety

1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, Bldg. 1 Rm. EB-80, Charleston WV 25305

Telephone (304) 558-5380 Fax (304) 344-4538

For Immediate Release: March 24, 2005

Contact: Yvonne Shepard, public  
information officer, (304) 558-5380

## Being a good neighbor could save a life

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** - People with age-related, physical or mental challenges have a greater than average need to be prepared for emergency situations.

Emergency plans may need extra components such as a special way to be notified of severe weather notifications, chemical releases or events. Assistance for voluntary evacuations may be necessary. Mobility impaired individuals sometimes need transportation in vehicles that can carry wheel chairs.

Family disaster kits contain general necessities for life, but are customized to include family members' medication and medical supplies such as insulin and diabetes testing equipment. Having an extra one-week supply of medication is a good way to insure that someone does not run out.

"We are asking people to help physically challenged or senior neighbors and family members with making an emergency plan and disaster kit," said Stephen S. Kappa, West Virginia Office of Emergency Services director.

"We also are asking everyone to check on their elderly or physically-challenged family members and neighbors during severe weather watches and emergency events," Kappa said. "Being a good neighbor could save a life."

For information on emergency preparedness, request a free copy of the WVOES Getting Ready: A Family Emergency Guide by contacting Yvonne Shepard, WVOES public information officer, at (304) 558-5380 or [yshepard@wvoes.state.wv.us](mailto:yshepard@wvoes.state.wv.us). This small booklet fits in most disaster kits. The guide also is available at the WVOES Web: [www.wvs.state.wv.us/wvoes/](http://www.wvs.state.wv.us/wvoes/).